THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Sir, the requisite information is given in the Annexure. (See Appendix 173, Annexure No. 2)

Social audit panel

42. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Social Audit Panel set up by the Communications Ministry has assailed the policy of privatisation of telecom services on the basis of impressions gathered during its widespread interaction with consumers and telecom staff though-out the country; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Tax evasion by soft drink manufacturers

43. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of tax evasions by leading soft drink manufacturers in the country have come to notice.

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to inspect the ledger of other multinational companies from time to time so that the cases of tax evasion could be detected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assistance provided by UNDP

44. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of assistance provided by the UNDP during the last three years; and

(b) the details of various development programmes undertaken with such assistance, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The quantum of assistance provided by UNDP during the last three years is as follows:—

Year	Amount in US$
1991	20,253,185
1992	18,367,246
1993	31,803,873

(b) UNDP technical assistance is provided according to the needs of various sectors within the purview of different Central Ministries/Departments. The details of these projects located in different States are given in the Annexure. (See Appendix 173, Annexure No. 3)

Reduction in import duty on aluminium industry

45. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from the Indian Aluminium Industry to reduce import duties on raw material used for producing aluminium products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed by Governme to assist the aluminium induustry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (and (b) Yes Sir. Government have received certain representation for reduction of import duty on aluminiu to nil.

(c) In view of the ensuing budget 1995-96, it is not possible to indicate the views of the Government in this matter at this stage.

Sick Industries Referred to BIFR

46. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick industries referred to the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction during the last year;

(b) the details of the above industries closed down during the above period, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to rehabilitate the staff of the above industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Of the 296 references received under section 15 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) during 1994 and 18 references carried forward from 1993, 193 references were registered by BIFR in 1994.

(b) BIFR has deported that during 1994, 102 cases were recommended to the High Courts for winding up. These included two cases registered during the year.

(c) Under SICA, BIFR is required to revive potentially viable sick industrial companies and recommend to the concerned High Courts closure of non-viable companies. While employment aspect is kept in view by BIFR at the time of considering the viability of a sick industrial company, SICA does not provide for rehabilitation of staff as such.

Setting up of Committee on Malpractices in Banks

47. SHRI S. AUSTIN:
SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had set up a Committee to inquire into various aspects relating to malpractices in Banks;

(b) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the recommendations of the Committee; and

(d) the recommendations accepted so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had set up a high level committee under the chairmanship of Shri A. Ghosh, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India to enquire into the various aspects of frauds and malpractices in banks The Committee submitted its report in 1992 to Governor, RBI. A summary of the main recommendations of the Committee is given in the annexed. Statement. (See below)

The report of the Committee was examined by RBI, and the banks were advised in August, 1992 to immediately implement 88 recommendations out of 123 recommendations contained in the report. The banks have reported having implemented most of these recommendations. The remaining recommendations were examined by RBI in consultation with Government and Indian Banks' Association and 16 recommendations have now been advised to banks for implementation.

Statement-I

Summary of the main recommendations of the Committee appointed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to enquire into various aspects of frauds and malpractices in Banks

1. Banks should strictly adhere to the operational precautions.

2. Currency chest transactions should be reported to the RBI's Issue Department on the same day.

3. Banks should guard themselves against misuse of banking channels